

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A hard disk drive comprising:

a magnetic storage disk comprising magnetic regions, wherein data bits are represented by the magnetization of the magnetic regions;

a plurality of read heads in proximate relation to the storage disk for determining the magnetization of the magnetic regions as the storage disk moves relative to the plurality of read heads, wherein each one of the plurality of read heads produces a signal representative of the magnetization, and wherein the plurality of heads are positioned to serially read the same magnetic regions; and

a detector responsive to the signals for averaging the signals produced by each one of the plurality of read heads and in response thereto determining the data bit value represented by the magnetization.

2. (Original) The hard disk drive of claim 1 wherein the magnetic regions comprise magnetic domains, and wherein a data bit is stored in each magnetic domain by magnetization of the magnetic domain during a write operation.

3. (Original) The hard disk drive of claim 2 wherein each one of the plurality of heads produces the signal representative of a read data bit in response to the magnetization of the magnetic domain.

4. (Previously presented) The hard disk drive of claim 1 wherein the data bits are stored along concentric tracks of the magnetic storage disk, and wherein the plurality of heads are oriented on a circular arc such that the plurality of heads serially read the data bits stored along the track.

5. (Original) The hard disk drive of claim 1 wherein the plurality of heads are positioned to successively read the same data bits as the storage disk moves relative to the plurality of read heads.

6. (Original) The hard disk drive of claim 1 wherein the detector further comprises a delay element for delaying one or more of the signals representative of the magnetization to produce one or more time-aligned signals.

7. (Previously presented) The hard disk drive of claim 6 wherein the time-aligned signals are averaged to form a composite signal for processing by the detector, and wherein the composite signal has a greater signal-to-noise ratio than the time-aligned signals.

8. (Currently amended) A method for reading data bits from a hard disk drive comprising a magnetic storage disk, wherein magnetized regions of the magnetic storage disk represent the data bits, comprising:

producing a plurality of signals representative of the magnetization of a [[same]] selected magnetized region of the magnetic storage disk by a plurality of read heads moving serially relative to the magnetic storage disk;

averaging the plurality of signals to determine the data bit value represented by the magnetized region.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising time-aligning the plurality of signals.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of time-aligning the plurality of signals comprises delaying one or more of the plurality of signals.
11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the plurality of signals are sequentially generated.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of combining further comprises introducing time delays to one or more of the plurality of signals.
13. (Cancelled)

Claims 14-24 (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The hard disk drive of claim 1 wherein each one of the plurality of read heads comprises a magneto-resistive sensor.

26 (Canceled)